

# BEYOND BARRIERS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

SIKESTON REGIONAL CENTER

SUMMER 2004

## No Limitations...please!!

What would life be like raising over a dozen children - all with special needs? Let's find out! Meet Sandy Kunz. Over the last 12 years Sandy has adopted a total of 13 children, and had another three foster children living in the home for a short period of time. Now, at first you may be thinking that is pretty extraordinary, but hold on...there's more to the story. Sandy is a single mother, and has raised all of these children by herself. And just when you thought that was it...*there's more!* Every child that Sandy has had in her home has severe behavior disorders, and they have all done well to accomplish more than what some people have expected of them in the past. These are the children that are usually placed in some sort of institution after several foster home placements. Sandy took on the challenge of making a better place for all of her children by giving them the opportunities to succeed. Most people had no hope that any of these children would do anything at all with their lives.

Since Sandy was a child, she wanted to open her home to others in need. After reading the story "Little Women" Sandy was inspired because she thought it was a great story. Although Sandy wanted to do this her whole life, she was never really in a position to do so until she became single at 40 years young. Also, around this same time, Sandy had a "calling" from the spiritual side of her life - so it began. The next several years would prove to be difficult and rewarding at the same time. Sandy's humble attitude allows her to say, "I believe since I was called to do this, that I was also equipped to do this. With vision goes provision."

The first of Sandy's adopted children, Robert and Roy, came to live with Sandy as foster children in 1992, and four years later Sandy adopted them. About a year after Robert and Roy were adopted, Sandy opened her home to a sibling family of four by adopting Joe, Rita, Tim, and Kassie. Another year later, in 1998, Sandy adopted Alex. In July 1999, biological sisters, Tiffany and Mandy, were adopted, and in September 2000, Sandy adopted biological brothers, Carlos and A.J. Sandy's last two adoptions came in the Fall of 2001, when she again opened her home and adopted biological siblings, Chris and Crystal.

You may have noticed that each adoption happened about 1 year after each previous adoption. Sandy explained that this was an unplanned phenomenon that just seemed to occur. A big meal such as Thanksgiving or Christmas led everyone to think that it looked like someone was missing, so it seemed natural to add to the family.

All of Sandy's children came to her with varying degrees of behavior issues. The behaviors ranged from something as minor as a child getting easily upset and maybe throwing something, to behaviors as severe as verbal threats of physical harm, or even acting out violently towards others. Most of the children were very aggressive and

violent and had been abused sexually, physically, emotionally, or all three. Since the children's behaviors were so severe, Sandy decided that she would take on another challenge...home-schooling every child. All of Sandy's adopted children have been home-schooled, with the exception of two children who attended Eagle Ridge Christian School last year. All of her children have been able to accomplish at least a degree of ability that many thought could never happen. Every kid has

come so much farther than anyone really ever gave them hope for. Sandy's advice is simple, "Keep the kid challenged, but not overwhelmed. You can tell by observation what is being achieved."

In between raising children with severe disabilities such as mental illness, mental retardation, or a combination of both, Sandy teaches ten to twenty hours of ballet lessons each week at City Studio in Jackson. She is also on staff as the Minister of Dance at the Christian Faith Fellowship Church and Eagle Ridge Christian School.

With all of the triumphs and accomplishments, Sandy has a slight feeling of sadness as well. That feeling comes to Sandy as she believes that she could have done so much more for so many more if the

appropriate supports had been available. It came to the point where having so many children with so many behavioral issues became overwhelming at times. Imagine taking a dozen children to one child's psychiatric counseling appointment. Who stays with all the children in the waiting room while you are involved in the other child's counseling session? How can you transport one child to an appointment when another has an appointment elsewhere at the same time? And then, who stays with the other children to ensure their safety and the safety of others? These are just some of the situations that Sandy encounters almost daily, but Sandy finds a way to overcome the obstacles. Her faith, her Church Family, and close friends have made it possible for Sandy to do what she is doing.

What can be said about a person who opens her heart and home to children that many others gave up on a long time ago...a living saint...an inspiration? There are several ways this story may impact its readers, but I would hope that everyone could agree to the fact that life is full of obstacles, and overcoming those obstacles is what makes us great and makes life worth living. Sandy has been so successful at overcoming extraordinary obstacles because of her philosophies in life. That always-positive attitude is captured in Sandy's own words: "Don't let anyone put limits on what your child can do or what you can do. Never set limits and never let anyone else set limits."

--Bryan Noack,  
Service Coordinator  
Sikeston Regional Center



From Left to right: Tiffany, Chris, Crystal, Sandy, Robert, Roy, Mandy, Alex, Kassie, Tim, Carlos, and A.J.



# How to Deal with Staring Eyes

By Antoine Jones

By Antoine Jones

Sure, everyone has hang ups about their appearance. We think we're too big or small, or our clothes and hair don't look right. But the topic seems to be magnified for those who have a disability, especially those recently injured. They become self-conscious because their body is now totally different than before their injury. They have either lost or gained weight, and they are not yet secure in the way they look in a wheelchair. Plus, going out is not as simple as it once was. They must now take extra precautions – like making sure their leg bag is empty and that there is enough juice in their wheelchair battery. They find themselves unable to go to the mall or grocery store without people staring and children pointing. This is one of the top reasons why people with disabilities stay at home, refusing to get involved in community and social activities.

A good example of this happened to me recently. I had received tickets from the MU Athletic Department to attend a men's basketball game and was searching for candidates to give them to. Well, I met a very nice woman at Rusk Rehabilitation Center and offered her two tickets. She declined because, having recently received a spinal cord injury, she didn't want people staring at her at the game. So I stayed and talked to her about the subject. She told me about the first outing she took to the mall with a family member. Everyone seemed to be looking at her and she felt very uncomfortable. She revealed to me that she wasn't yet comfortable being in public places.

This is a common theme for those with disabilities. The sheer thought of having so many people staring at them makes them hesitate to go out and enjoy life. And believe me, people do stare! But those with disabilities need to understand that most people stare because they are curious. They want to learn, so they watch how you get out of your car or van, they watch how you drive your wheelchair, they watch how you get in and out of buildings, and most of all they watch to see how you maneuver around difficult obstacles. To tell you the truth, a majority of the population is clueless about the life of a person with a disability. People live their lives unaware of different aspects of life, and I have to admit I was guilty of the same thing. Before my accident almost 10 years ago, I rarely paid attention to those in wheelchairs. And if I did see someone disabled, it didn't cross my mind to wonder what happened or how are they doing now. I was too busy concentrating on my life and

what I wanted to accomplish in the future. That's why it doesn't bother me when people are staring at me. My spinal cord injury opened my eyes to the lives of others.

But that wasn't always the case. The woman I mentioned earlier asked me how I was able deal with people staring. It wasn't easy for me to go out in public at first because, like her, I was still self-conscious about my appearance. But I told her that for me it was a three-step process:

**1. Face it, you're disabled** – yes, you are in a wheelchair and people are going to look and treat you differently. But this doesn't mean you have to act differently or give up on your appearance. Continue to act and dress the way you did before your injury. Keep yourself groomed and pick out clothing you find appealing.

**2. People are going to stare** – it's just human nature. We are all curious about things that are different. What I have found that helps is greeting people with a smile and saying hello. And if you find an adult or child that is really looking at you for a long time, just do what I do. Go up to them, introduce yourself, and answer any questions they may have. This particularly works well with small children who are pointing and asking their parents, "What happened to him?"

**3. Keep going out** – the best way to overcome this problem is by facing it. If you continue to go out, you eventually will become comfortable with being in public places. Now you will never get used to people staring at you, but you will become more confident in your appearance and begin to ignore the stare of others.

You know, there are so many other important parts of being disabled to worry about like your health, getting proper medication, having adequate attendant care, etc. Life is too short for you to let the actions of others keep you from doing the things you enjoy. So get out and go to the movies, concerts, and shopping. Don't let the stares of others prevent you from being an active member of society.

(Antoine is an employee of the Missouri Model Spinal Cord Injury System.)

*Reprinted with permission from the Spring 2004 edition of The Spinal Series newsletter of the Missouri Model Spinal Cord Injury System. For more information and articles, visit their website at [www.hsc.missouri.edu/~momscis](http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/~momscis).*

## Learn More About It

### Adoption:

Visit the State of Missouri's Adoption Photo Listing at:  
[www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/index.htm](http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/index.htm)

**ComeUnity:** Parenting support for adoption and children's special needs  
<http://comeunity.com>

### Home Schooling:

A to Z Home's Cool: <http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com>

American Homeschooling Association (AHA): <http://americanhomeschoolassociation.org>

Crosswalk: Christian homeschooling site, [http://www.crosswalk.com/family/home\\_school](http://www.crosswalk.com/family/home_school)

Home Education Magazine (HEM): <http://www.home-ed-magazine.com>

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA): <http://www.hsllda.org>

The Teaching Home: Christian Magazine for home educators,  
<http://www.teachinghome.com>

National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network: Christian Homeschooling for special needs children, <http://www.nathhan.com>

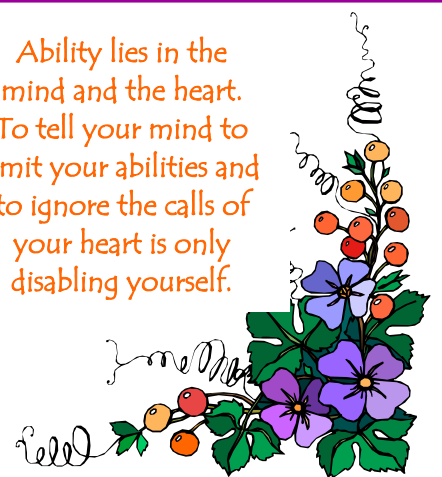
National Home Education Network: <http://www.nhen.org>

National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI): <http://www.nheri.org>

Learn in Freedom: <http://learninfreedom.org>

Alliance for Parental Involvement in Education: <http://www.croton.com/allpie/go.asp>

Ability lies in the  
mind and the heart.  
To tell your mind to  
limit your abilities and  
to ignore the calls of  
your heart is only  
disabling yourself.



# MAKING IT WORK...WITH FISCAL INTERMEDIARY



Peter was our only child and the love of our life. He was always a good child and grew into a fine young man. Peter loved to attend church and social functions and everyone loved him in return. He was kind and quite the gentleman. Peter loved life, and having Down Syndrome didn't dampen his spirit in the least.

We were just like any other family who enjoyed being together. Peter was always included in everything his father and I did. He and his dad were buddies, and loved doing things together.

Everyone in our community knew and loved Peter, and he knew and loved them in return. However, all too soon the day came when it would just be Peter and I. I did not know how I would manage alone.

Peter was very healthy at the time of his dad's death. He could be at home by himself from the time I left for work in the morning, until noon when I returned home to prepare his lunch. He would then stay at home until I returned from work at 5:00 in the afternoon. At that time we had our dinner and our good times together. Sometimes we would enjoy eating out, or going to play miniature golf (which Peter loved to do). Much of the time we would enjoy watching the Cardinal games on TV, or a movie.

However, as the days passed I could see Peter becoming different. He was missing his dad terribly. Only occasionally would he talk of his dad, because I think he knew how much I was missing him too. The suddenness of his death had been such a shock for both of us.

Peter began having seizures, and as the seizures became more frequent, he began to lose his balance. He no longer got around as well. As time went on Peter began to require assistance with his daily needs. After one of his hospitalizations we were able to get Home Health Services, with an aid coming a few hours a week. I was able to hire someone to come in for a few additional

hours, so that I could continue to work. I felt I needed to keep working if I was to pay for his expensive medications and care. This created another concern. Some days an aid could not come in, and I would have to call into work and remain home with Peter.

Then I was told I needed colon surgery and could not lift, or do much for several weeks. Someone mentioned that the Regional Center had a program for short term assistance. I called, and a service coordinator came out. She told me I could get a few hours of support a month, for Peter. This was great, and allowed me some healing time. However, I still was at home alone with Peter at night, without any help. By this time Peter had to have assistance getting out of bed and to the bathroom. We managed, but I needed more support.

Then, in October 2000, my service coordinator told me about a program called Fiscal Intermediary, and that we may qualify for some hours under this program. My service coordinator told me we would need to apply, and that there would be some requirements, I, as Peter's parent, would be responsible for. With the Fiscal Intermediary, I would need to hire Peter's staff, keep up with their hours, train them, and supervise their care of Peter. This sounded like a God Send, as I had been praying for a way that I could have Peter remain in his home and be cared for at the same time. My main concern was to keep Peter out of a nursing home. I did not feel that he would tolerate a nursing home atmosphere, and too I could not endure the pain of being away from him at night, wondering if he was being properly cared for. With the Fiscal Intermediary program we could actually do more of the care of Peter than the Home Health aid was allowed to do.

I was so excited, yet apprehensive, that we would qualify, or be able to complete the responsibility of actually acting as providing agency for my son. I immediately told my service coordinator that I wanted to "go for it." We began work on the lengthy application process. This took us several hours, working together as a team, and we formed a close relationship, both looking only toward the end result for Peter. Soon our application was completed and submitted. Then we prayed. WE WERE ACCEPTED!

There was a lot of paperwork, such as, putting ads in the paper for staff, getting peoples applications, and having them checked out as being the type of people that we wanted to care for Peter. My utmost thought was to hire people who were capable of love, because I knew if they loved Peter

they would take good care of him and his needs. I was very fortunate in getting people who cared and who remained with us throughout Peter's entire illness. This gave me peace of mind while I was away from home, knowing all of his needs were being met and also a lot of personal attention.

As Peter's illness progressed, we were able to get more hours. Eventually he required total care. Additional supports were sought and combined to meet Peter's increasing level of care. Peter's medical needs became more and more complicated, with a feeding tube, IV's, oxygen, constant suctioning, and many medications. However, with the help I was receiving I managed to keep him home and in the environment he loved and felt comfortable with. No nursing home for Peter.

I would certainly encourage anyone in a situation similar to what I have described above to give the Fiscal Intermediary program consideration. It is worth all of the time and effort that has to go into it in the planning, advertising for help, keeping up with the hours, and submitting monthly payroll vouchers, to have your loved one cared for and staying home, with family and friends available at all times. Also, you have your service coordinator available to advise and assist you in all of this. They are always just a phone call away for any help, or advice. There were also a few glitches with getting payroll vouchers in at times Peter was in the hospital. The Regional Center Accounting and other staff were wonderful when help was needed. I feel so grateful and thankful that this program was available for my son and for me.

Peter continued to remain home with me until he recently went to be with his dad.

*By: Nadine Collier, Mom &  
Shirley Kossman-Moore,  
Service Coordinator*

**For more information on Missouri's  
Fiscal Intermediary Program, visit  
<http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/mrdd/fi>**

*Hope is the companion of  
power and the mother of  
success. For those of us who  
hope strongest have within  
us the gift of miracles.  
--Sydney Bremer*



# Web Watch



**Special Reads:** A Reading Series designed to get children excited about reading, and to make success easy and fast. Materials are ideal for teaching reading to children with developmental delays and challenges. Resources are not free, but prices are reasonable. There is even a workbook for teaching money skills for the beginner needing to learn about how to manage money for teens and young adults. <http://www.specialreads.com>

**Our Children Left Behind** is a website that offers IDEA-related information on disability topics from a parent's point of view. [www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com](http://www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com)

**Soda Pop Online** Soda Pop Stands for Siblings of Disabled (Kids) and Peers Offering Promise. This website is made for kids and teenagers who have a disabled sibling or friend. This site was created so teens and kids can talk to their peers about what they are going through. Check it out at [www.sodapoponline.org](http://www.sodapoponline.org).

**Medicare drug discounts:** Now you can perform a quick search for Medicare-approved drug discount cards and their drug pricing information. On the site, enter your ZIP Code and the drugs that you take, and you can compare drug cards. Depending on your annual income, you may be eligible to receive up to a \$600 credit each calendar year (2004 and 2005) to help pay for prescription drugs. To get the \$600 credit, you have to get a Medicare-approved drug discount card and certain conditions apply. [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Federal Government disability related information and resources:** This easy-to-use website is a directory of government web links relevant to people with disabilities, their families, employers, service providers and other community members. It organizes information and issues concerning disabilities into nine categories, listed as color-coded tabs at the top of every page. <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov>

## Missouri Department of Conservation to Sponsor Family Outdoor Skills Camp for the Deaf

*Campers learn outdoors skills and enjoy family fun*



Deaf and hard of hearing children learn the basics in fishing, canoeing and archery at Missouri Department of Conservation outdoor skills camp. (Missouri Dept. of Conservation photo)

"Because there are so few schools for the deaf in the state, a lot of children must leave their homes to attend school," Garrison said. "So we want the camp to be a place where the kids can enjoy time with their families. I can't think of a better way for a family to spend time together. My hope is that the parents will use the training they receive to increase opportunities for their kids to enjoy the outdoors."

Campers and their families will participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities, including traditional archery with a walk-through silhouette shoot, basic canoeing, fishing and scaling a 40-foot climbing wall.

The skills camp takes place August 21-22 at the H. Roe Bartle Boy Scout Camp in Osceola. Lodging, meals and supplies for the camp are provided free-of-charge thanks to funding from the Missouri Conservation Agents Association, United Bowhunters of Missouri, Compton Traditional Bowhunters and the Warsaw Shrine Club.

Registration for the skills camp is limited to the first 200 applicants. For more information, or to sign up for the Family Outdoor Skills Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children contact: Tisha Holden at 573/346-2210 Ext. 222 or Pat Roam at 573/346-2210 Ext. 221.

Submitted by: Angie Grant, CRS  
Poplar Bluff Regional Center

## People First of Sikeston

Recently, two of the Sikeston officers attended the National Self-advocacy Conference in Anaheim, CA. At the conference, Tracy DePriest was elected as Missouri's Regional Representative with S.A.B.E. (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered), the national organization for people with disabilities. Barry Grissom and Tracy learned a lot, and brought good information back to share with the Missouri People First Steering Committee.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Sikeston People First hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual ADA Picnic at the Eagles Park in Sikeston. People First members from Sikeston, Cape Girardeau, Dexter, Kennett and Fredericktown participated. The Sikeston chapter is very grateful to their community for all the donations made for the picnic.

Members from Sikeston are looking forward to the Self-Advocacy Training and Retreat that will be taking place on Sept. 18-19 at Camp Wonderland.

Many of the Sikeston members have been receiving training on voting. Several have registered to vote, and are looking forward to voting for the first time in their lives!!

# Travis "The Conqueror"

You might remember Travis' story from the Summer 2003 issue of Beyond Barriers, but in case you missed it, here's a brief summary. Travis is a very intelligent young man who sustained a spinal cord injury from a vehicle accident in September of 2000, and has quadriplegia as a result. Travis graduated high school in May 2003 with a 3.965 grade point average, which is exceptional considering that Travis was recovering in hospitals for a year of his high school career. Travis received several scholarships including the AXA Achievement Scholarship, which recognizes students who have achieved excellence in and out of the classroom. Part of that scholarship money was used to fund Travis' first year of college, which was a success.

Although he uses a wheelchair, and must have a personal attendant do his physical work, Travis earned all A's and B's in his first year of college and has a cumulative grade point average of 3.22. Travis said he would have better grades if he could do the work himself, and he has worked hard to maintain above average grades. The classes are not really any more difficult than high school, but they are a little more time-consuming for Travis.

The toughest classes were chemistry and chemistry lab. The scariest class was political science, but he did well. His favorite classes were his math classes. His weirdest class was the study of ESP, Bigfoot, and UFO's, in which he had to create his own monster and make-up a story to convince the rest of the class that it was real.

With the exception of just a few minor complications, Travis' first year went well. He never missed a class and was only late to class one time. That tardiness was due to the shuttle bus wheelchair lift breaking. Travis explained that his biggest obstacle is that he is

not able to do the 'hands-on' work in his classes and labs. Other obstacles for Travis include getting to the next class on time and the fact that it takes longer to do homework because he must tell someone else what he wants them to do. Travis' mother, Theresa, noted there were times when there was not enough accessible parking, but that never really interfered with Travis' education.

Travis found that Southeast Missouri State University was very accessible to his needs. The shuttle bus was usually always on time. All of the professors were very accommodating to Travis' needs. Also, Travis' advisor scheduled his classes to allow time for transition in between, and so he would not have to come to class every day of the week.

So, after a successful year at college, what's next for Travis? Well, he's made new friends, and he still hangs out with some old friends. As for his education, Travis will be working towards earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Engineering. His classes will include Calculus II, Physics I and Physics Lab, Engineering Concepts, and an English class via the internet. His long-term goal is to graduate from Southeast and eventually attend the University of Missouri at Columbia to pursue a Masters degree in engineering.

Now we all have three reasons to watch what Travis does in life...earning his Bachelors degree...earning his Masters degree...and probably most important...getting out of that wheelchair. With the determination and intelligence that Travis possesses, anything is possible, and he will conquer the obstacles life puts in his way.

-- Bryan Noack, Service Coordinator,  
Sikeston Regional Center



## Puppet Talk

### Here Comes A.N.D.Y.!



Who's Andy?? A.N.D.Y. (Able Not Disabled Youth) is a puppet program designed to promote inclusion of children who have disabilities. Through the magic of puppetry, students in grades K-6 will soon be learning about specific disabilities, and how to interact with and assist differently-abled friends and classmates.

Six colorful puppets are alternately cast in a series of short skits, each highlighting a specific disability. Green-haired Andy is the star, a social "klutz" with an attitude. Andy doesn't have a clue about disabilities, but he quickly learns from his friends in each skit and turns into an eager advocate. Skits are performed using kid-friendly language and punctuated with spirited songs. At the end of each program, children will be able to talk to the puppets about disabilities in a question and answer session.

A.N.D.Y. puppets will be spreading their message in classrooms across our region on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month during the school year. If you know of a

teacher or school that might like to take advantage of this free one-hour program, please share this information with them. To be added to the program reservation list, interested parties should call Cindy Brotherton at 573-243-0520

Original scripts are a collaborative effort of professionals in the disability field. A.N.D.Y. is sponsored by the Region IX Council on Developmental Disabilities and supported by various community entities which have each "adopted" a puppet. Donations are always accepted, and several puppets are still available for adoption. For more information, call Lee Trankler at 573-472-1711 or Cindy Brotherton at 573-243-0520.

# Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship

MVTH...a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing equine-facilitated educational and therapeutic opportunities for people with disabilities in southeast Missouri

## needs your support

MVTH is requesting support from dedicated people to **volunteer** their valuable time. One of the goals of MVTH is to expand therapeutic services to everyone in the Southeast Missouri area who would like to benefit from therapeutic horseback riding, while keeping the costs to the riders at a minimum. Volunteers are extremely vital in achieving this goal!

### We need a variety of volunteers to do a variety of different things:

- Lead a therapy horse!! (experience with handling horses is necessary, training may be provided)
- Be a sidewalker!! (ensure the safety of the riders and also do therapy activities with the riders, training provided for ALL sidewalkers)
- Groom, feed, and water the horses!! ("hands-on" training provided)
- Maintain the land and the facilities!! (mowing, clearing brush, repair, maintenance, cleaning, etc.)
- Be a volunteer recruiter!! (work with agencies/organizations/businesses/schools to recruit appropriate volunteers for the MVTH program)
- Help with fund-raising activities!! (make presentations; request funds on behalf of MVTH)
- Treat injured horses/do preventative treatments!! (must have experience – veterinarians welcomed)
- Publish and distribute a quarterly newsletter for MVTH!! (need desktop publishing experience)
- Create, maintain, and update a website for MVTH!! (need experience working with websites)
- Manage MVTH's finances and taxes!! (CPA, lawyer, bookkeeper, etc. duties – must have experience)
- Therapists – (PT's, OT's, SLP's, COTA's, PTA's, etc) do one-on-one therapy with the riders, suggest new therapy activities, implement new individualized goals for riders, train other volunteers on the importance of therapeutic horsemanship!! Help us make MVTH better than it already is!!
- Nurses – (Nurse Practitioners, RN's, LPN's) treat riders and volunteers if minor injuries occur!!
- Physicians – Come observe/volunteer and refer patients!! Present information at volunteer trainings!!

**\*\* Possible incentives for volunteers who support MVTH regularly! \*\***

**\*\* Students and retirees strongly encouraged to volunteer!!\*\***

### **Directions to the newly purchased MVTH site:**

From Cape: I-55 north. Old Appleton exit (117). Right on KK. Right on Rte. D. Approx. 2 miles (on right)

From Perryville: I-55 south. Old Appleton exit (117). Left on KK. Right on Rte. D. Approx. 2 miles (on right)

From Jackson: Rte. D North through Oak Ridge and over I-55. MVTH on the left

From Millersville: Hwy. 72. North on Rte. B. East on Rte. E. North on Rte. D and over I-55. MVTH on left.

***\*\*If you would like to volunteer your services to a great therapeutic cause please contact Bryan or Jaime Noack at (573) 204-0376***

MVTH has instructors trained and certified by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) who facilitate every session.

## PARENT TO PARENT

They say time flies when you're having fun - which I believe is true. Just think how quickly an ice cream cone can melt, a rainbow fades away, and our children grow up. And now summer, once again, is nearing an end. Summertime for some children is a lot of fun and games; while for other children, it's time to play catch-up on their academic skills. They may be in tutoring, attending Extended School Year, in summer school, or in swim lessons. Either way, they are still children, and they still grow up quickly. Sometimes it's okay to say, "We are having fun today, and not working on therapy goals." Studies have shown that therapy happens all day, in every life. It's sometimes easy to forget that our differently-abled children are, first and foremost, children, who want to make pies with a friend, or play in the park.

As we all prepare for the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year, let us all have a fun day of doing nothing with our children. I'll bet time will fly that day!!

--Cindy Brotherton  
Parent Policy Partner

## Publishers of Disability Books and Videos

**DRL Books** offers books for teaching children with developmental disabilities and specializes in literature that meets the educational needs of the autism community. All publications are related to the specific teaching methods within the realm of Applied Behavior Analysis for parents, professionals or for exceptional children themselves. To find out more, visit <http://www.drlbooks.com/default.htm>, or write 12 West 18<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 3E, New York, NY 10017, or call toll free **800-853-1057**.

**Future Horizons** is the "leading publisher in the world in autism/Asperger's." To order a catalog, visit <http://www.futurehorizons-autism.com>, or write Future Horizons, Inc., 721 West Abram Street, Arlington, TX 76013, or call toll free: **800-489-0727**.

**Woodbine House** is a publisher specializing in books about children with special needs. Offerings include books related to AD/HD, autism, celiac disease, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, learning disabilities, spina bifida, traumatic brain injury, early intervention, inclusion, special education, communication skills, and more. Visit <http://www.woodbinehouse.com> or call toll free **800-843-7323** or write Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

**Peytral Publications, Inc.** offers special education materials for teachers and parents which promote success for all learners. Call **1-877-739-8725** for a catalog, visit [www.peytral.com](http://www.peytral.com) on the Internet, or write Peytral Publications, Inc at P. O. Box 1162, Minnetonka, NM 55345.

**Brookes Publishing Co.** lists books on disabilities, education and child development. Call toll free 1-800-638-3775, visit <http://www.brookespublishing.com>, or write Brookes Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624.

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

--Candy Lane, Community Resource Coordinator



**Aquatic Angel's** swimwear is a line of unique swimsuits that are designed with easy access and limited mobility in mind. They are made especially for people who are physically challenged and those who have special needs. This is a brand new product and the factory will begin making them very soon. For a flyer or more information, call toll free 1-866-261-8365 or (316) 684-0166 or email [aquaticangels@cox.net](mailto:aquaticangels@cox.net).

- contributed by Mamie Benson, Poplar Bluff Regional Center

**"Mozart and the Whale"** is a new movie with an autism/Asperger's focus. Jerry and Mary Newport, a married couple who both have Asperger's Syndrome, are the subjects of this full length feature starring Josh Hartnett and Radha Michell. The film, which began shooting in March, was written by Ron Bass, who also wrote the script for "Rainman." Jerry Newport is the author of "Your Life Is Not a Label" and co-author (with wife Mary) of "Autism-Asperger and Sexuality." Find out more about the movie at [www.mozartandthewhale.com](http://www.mozartandthewhale.com).

**LaRue:** Phillip and Natalie are a young (18 and 21 yrs.) brother-sister duo. They wrote a song for their sister, Brianna, who has cerebral palsy, and perform it on their new CD, "Transparent." You can visit their website at [www.laruemusic.com/](http://www.laruemusic.com/) or pick up a copy of "Transparent" at your favorite music store.

**Workshop Solutions** is a not-for profit website, that provides a place where engineers, technicians, inventors and workshop enthusiasts can display and share knowledge on assistive devices they have built to better the lives of people with disabilities. Caregivers who are limited by funding concerns may find the answer in homebuilt assistive devices. Sometimes having a "handyman" in the family really does come in handy! [www.workshopsolutions.com](http://www.workshopsolutions.com)

- Contributed by Deana O'Brien, Parent Consultant, Columbia, MO

*I know God won't give me anything I can't handle.  
I just wish He didn't trust me so much.*

- Mother Teresa



## Fun Facts”

- ☺ No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.
- ☺ Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- ☺ You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- ☺ The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- ☺ The King of Hearts is the only king in the deck without a mustache.
- ☺ Pearls melt in vinegar. (Don't attempt to prove this!)
- ☺ In 1987, American Airlines saved \$40,000 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- ☺ Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- ☺ Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
- ☺ Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.
- ☺ Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- ☺ It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
- ☺ A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- ☺ You can't kiss your elbow -- *you tried to do it, didn't you?*

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Visit Sikeston Regional Center's Website at: <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/sikeston/index.htm>

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Information on alternative treatments, resources, and products is provided in this newsletter as a service to families, and does not reflect the endorsement of the Sikeston Regional Center or the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Families should always consult with their doctors and therapists before trying any new product or treatment.

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